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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT NO.

25X1

SUBJECT Belene Concentration Camp, Compound 3

DATE DISTR. 24 September 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO.

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

25X1

1. The Belene forced labor camp is six kilometers west of the village of Belene and five kilometers south of the Danube. A bad road connects the camp with Belene village; there is also a road to the station at Oresh (N 4336, E 2513). Near the camp there is a canal four to five meters wide and 1.5 meters deep, dug by the prisoners. The whole area between the camp and the canal is irrigated by ditches. A fishing station is said to exist near the camp.
2. Compound 3 is better organized than some of the other compounds and the internees receive better rations. There are no women.¹ There are between seven and eight hundred prisoners in the compound. [REDACTED] ILLEGIB
3. For prisoners under discipline the life is especially hard. Extra labor norms are required of them and if these are not fulfilled, the prisoners are punished. Some of the punishments are loss of the privileges of writing letters, receiving food packages (five kilos per month), and seeing relatives once or twice a year.
4. As with Bulgaria's other forced labor camps, prisoners do not remain long in one camp, so that trace of them is easily lost. The following are known to have resided in Belene at one time, but it is not known whether they are still there:
 - a. General Aleksiev;²
 - b. Medical Doctor Nikola Barev;
 - c. Kocho Bonev (former Agrarian Deputy);³
 - d. Gen. Gocho Gochev;⁴
 - e. Sveti Ivanov (a former journalist);⁵ and

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR													
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X", Field Distribution By "#")

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25X1 f. Major Ivan Strashimov.⁶

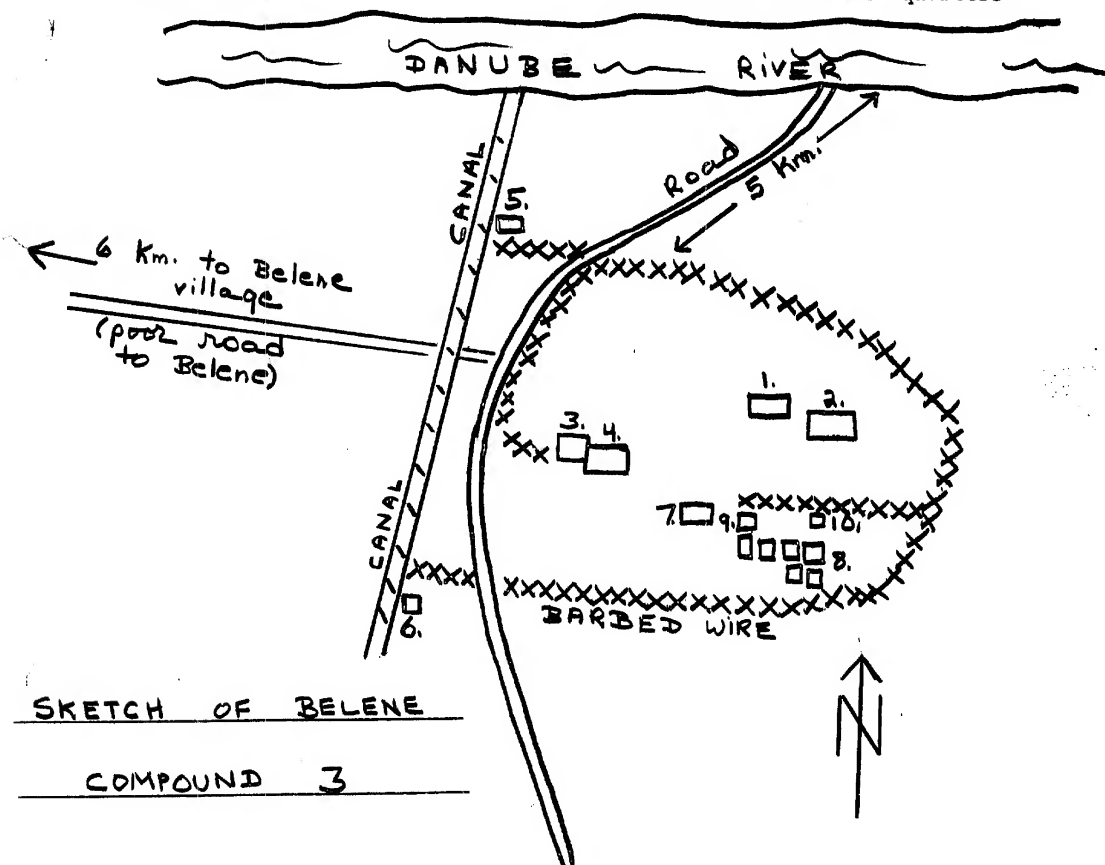
Comments:

- 25X1 1. [] the 700-800 prisoners who were in compound 3 were moved in the summer of 1951 and that it was rumored that their places had been taken by a small group of female prisoners.
- 25X1 2. Reported [] to be in Belene compound 3.
- 25X1 3. Reported [] to be in Belene compound 3 and then in [] in Belene compound 1.
- 25X1 4. Reported [] to be in Belene compound 1.
5. Reported to have died in Belene.
6. Three reports [] also report that this man is confined in Belene.

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LEGEND FOR BELENE FORCED LABOR CAMP - COMPOUND 3.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Administration Building | 6. Militia Depot |
| 2. Militia Barracks | 7. Tool Storehouse |
| 3. Food Depot | 8. Tents for ordinary internees |
| 4. Kitchen | 9. Small Store |
| 5. Militia Depot | 10. Medical Officers' quarters |



SKETCH OF BELENE

COMPOUND 3

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